

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as described on pages 3-7 of the Office Action. Claims 1, 5 and 9 are the only independent claims.

The scope and intent of the present invention will now be described in light of the attached illustration.

At step 1 on the attached chart, a sender generates an outgoing mail containing information objects (media information) A and B. At step 2, to a receiver, the sender transmits the information objects A and B together with positioning control information defining the structure of (i.e., indicating the temporal and spatial positioning of the information objects in) the outgoing mail. At step 3, the receiver receives information objects A and B and the positioning control information transmitted from the sender.

At step 4, based on the received positioning control information, the receiver restores the outgoing mail transmitted from the sender. At step 5, the receiver stores information objects A and B which were contained in the received mail. At step 6, by utilizing the received information objects A and B, the receiver composes a return mail. For example, the return mail may be something that appears to contain information object C in addition to the received information objects A and B, which were contained in the outgoing mail from the sender.

Note that the sender, which has transmitted the information objects (i.e., A and B in the above example) to the receiver, is expected to possess the same information objects (A and B). Therefore, even though such information objects (A and B) are not included in the return mail from the receiver, the sender can still restore the return mail by using the additional information object (C) and the positioning control information defining the structure of the return mail in conjunction with the information objects (A and B) possessed by the sender.

Note that the information objects to be thus "utilized" in composing the return mail may not only be information objects which are contained in the outgoing mail which has just been received from the sender, but can also be information objects contained in any previous mail which has been received from the same sender in the past.

Independent claim 1 is drawn to a multi-media E-mail method of transmitting/receiving a multi-media E-mail. Independent claim 1, as amended, requires, *inter alia*:

composing a return mail for the restored incoming mail comprising return information objects and return positioning control information indicating how the return information objects are temporally and/or spatially positioned by utilizing the received media information; and

transmitting the composed return mail back to the sender in a form of a multi-media E-mail including the return information objects and the return positioning control information and excluding the received information objects.

Independent claim 5 is drawn to a multi-media E-mail device for transmitting/receiving a multi-media E-mail. Independent claim 5, as amended, requires, *inter alia*:

an inputted information editing part operable to compose a return mail comprising return information objects and return positioning control information indicating how the return information objects are temporally and/or spatially positioned by utilizing the received information objects; and

a transmission controlling part operable to transmit the return mail to the sender in a form of a multi-media E-mail including the return information objects and the return positioning control information and excluding the received information objects.

Independent claim 9 is drawn to a recording medium having a computer readable program stored thereon for instructing a computer device to:

compose a return mail for restored incoming mail comprising return information objects and return positioning control information indicating how the return information objects are temporally and/or spatially positioned by utilizing the received information objects; and

transmit the composed return mail to the sender in a form of a multi-media E-mail including the return information objects and the return positioning control information and excluding the received information objects.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Applicants' admitted prior art nor Cree, either singly or in combination, teaches the above-identified limitations.

As discussed, for example on page 4 of the Office Action, Applicants' admitted prior art fails to teach composing a return mail for restored incoming mail by utilizing the received media information; and transmitting the composed return mail back to the sender including all the restored information objects and the restored positioning control information exclusive of the received information objects. Cree is then relied upon for allegedly teaching sending a reply E-mail back to a sender, which optionally contains only the information that was not included in the original E-mail, thereby citing column 1, lines 35-37; 48-55; column 2, lines 9-53. A1

Cree relates to an invention that enables selection as to whether to allow content of an outgoing mail (i.e., a mail which is transmitted from a sending end) to be cited in a return mail. If the sending-end user chooses not to allow the content of the outgoing mail to be cited in the return mail, only the portion which has been newly added by the receiving-end user will be returned to the sender, thereby preventing the content of the returned mail from becoming too complex and confusing to the sending-end user.

As discussed above, in accordance with the present invention, positioning control information defining the structure of the return mail is returned to the sender together with all information objects excluding those received from the sender. As a result, the original sender can restore the return mail based on the positioning control information and information objects returned from the receiver, as well as the information objects which the sender wants transmitted to the receiver.

It is respectfully submitted that Cree fails to teach or suggest positioning control information as required in each of independent claims 1, 5 and 9. Accordingly, in accordance with the teachings of Cree, the sender is not able to restore the return mail in a manner required in claims 1, 5 and 9. A2

In light of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 5 and 9 are patentable over the combination of the Applicants' admitted prior art in view of Cree within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Furthermore, since claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-12 are dependent upon claims 1, 5 and 9, respectively, it is additionally submitted that claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-12 are patentable over the combination of the Applicants' admitted prior art in view of Cree within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Having fully and completely responded to the Office Action, Applicants submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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July 17, 2003